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# THE MCGILL DAILY

## Pigeon-hole is ready for their closeup

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# New Cold Beverage Deal On the Way

*McGill back at the table with Coke, but working towards a friendlier deal*

BY JON BRICKER  
McGill Daily

McGill could be on the verge of a new cold beverage agreement with Coke, just eight months after students turned out in record numbers for a referendum to reject a similar deal.

The university has approached SSMU and the Engineering Undergraduate Society - the only two student groups currently with their own rights to beverage sales - about a new campuswide deal that would make Coca-Cola McGill's primary drink supplier for at least the next ten years.

But while administrators say the new deal will address all the concerns that students raised during a mass campaign against a Coke deal last winter, the EUS announced last week that it has no plans to take part in the deal because many of students' concerns have yet to be resolved.

"I was extremely surprised when they told me McGill was back at the table with Coke. I was under the impression that all talks with Coke were off," said EUS President Anjali Mishra.

"When the idea of a new deal came to EUS council, the feeling was, students said there was a referendum on this last year and students made their will clear."

Mishra said that while McGill has clearly made efforts in negotiations with Coke to address concerns raised last winter, too many issues remained unresolved.

"I'm not even sure the deal that they're talking about now would be all that advantageous for EUS, monetarily speaking," she said.

But Ancillary Services Director Alan Charade, McGill's lead negotiator in the talks with Coke, said the university is still working vigorously on a new deal that's much friendlier than the one that was the subject of vocal protest last semester.

"We're negotiating with Coke for a non-exclusive arrangement that's in line

with what students asked for back in March," said Charade.

"We're also working hard to loosen the deal's confidentiality and to keep prices under control," he explained.

Charade said that while the decision by EUS not to sign on to the deal will mean that a final agreement can't be campuswide, he doesn't think it will jeopardize the value of the deal rumoured to be worth about \$5-million.

The non-exclusive agreement would make Coke the supplier for about 80 per cent of beverages on campus for the next 10 years.

Charade said the deal will also include price protection in the way of a clause that will not let prices at McGill increase by more than the average among other Canadian campuses.

But according to Phil Gohier, one of the activists behind the anti-Coke campaign last winter, university administrators are still failing to heed students' protests.

"This deal sounds like the same one we heard about last year," Gohier said. "McGill just doesn't seem to care about a referendum last year that said we don't want McGill signing deals with private partners like Coke."

Gohier said the university still hasn't addressed students' concerns with consumption quotas and confidentiality. He called the deal which allow only select student representatives to see the deal before it is signed, "undemocratic."

But SSMU VP Operations Kevin McPhee said he's happy with the strides made with Coke since last March's referendum.

A record 5,000 McGill students turned out last March for a referendum that asked them whether SSMU should take part in a campuswide, exclusive cold beverage agreement with Coke. In the end, about 56 per cent voted against the deal, following vocal protests that earned McGill national media attention. Although the referendum was not binding on the university, administrators said at the time that talks with Coke

would be called off in the name of respecting students' will.

But with talks between McGill and Coke apparently back on, McPhee said last week that SSMU is once again looking into getting in on a cold beverage deal.

"We definitely need to make a real effort to get this money," said McPhee.

He said that while he still has problems with the length of the deal, he nonetheless thinks that issues like confidentiality and quotas have been addressed.

"If the deal was put on my plate tomorrow, I'd probably reject it... but I'm satisfied that McGill has made a real effort to address students' concerns."

But Gohier said that a move by SSMU to sign a deal would amount to selling out students.

"If SSMU signs on, it would be a real punch in the face," Gohier said. "My hope is that students will go to their students' council and make sure that they know that last March's referendum needs to be respected. Otherwise, if SSMU still doesn't want to listen to students, we'll just have to vote on it again."



Coke is on its way back to McGill

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# Professors Strike at Newfoundland's Memorial University

By KAREN GRIFFIN and AMANDA LABONTE  
*The Muse, St. John's*

For the first time in Memorial University's history the professors walked out of the classroom and onto a picket line.

After more than a year of bargaining with the administration for a new collective agreement, at 7:45 am Tuesday morning, the Memorial University of Newfoundland Faculty Association (MUNFA) officially went on strike. Picket lines were formed almost immediately at points around the parkway and in front of the Arts and Administration Building.

The strike comes after a vote held on Oct. 13 when 60 per cent of the union voted in favour of job action. The original date for the strike action was Monday, but the deadline was pushed back to Tuesday morning in order to accommodate further talks.

Noel Roy, MUNFA President, said that they felt any further delays would drastically affect their credibility.

Over the weekend the union presented the administration with their counter proposal to the administration's financial offer, said Roy.

"We deliberately designed it so that it would meet the administration halfway," he said.

"They went away with it and they came back a few hours later and said they weren't prepared to negotiate salary. It was, in other words, their proposal or nothing."

In an announcement made the same morning, Memorial University President Axel Meisen told students their mid-term break would be changed from November 13-15 to November 1-3 so that not as many classes would be missed. Tuesday's classes had already been cancelled.

"I want to assure you that my key priority is the well-being of our students and employees," said Meisen.

He claims that the main sticking point in the negotiations is not the salary levels being offered the professors, but rather the distribution of money. As well, he does not expect the strike to last for very long.

He recognizes that moving the mid-term break is highly inconvenient but the change was his decision and it was considered advantageous to minimize the effect on students. He also says that the issue now is how to make up for lost classes.

"If it's a short strike it's not going to impact people very much and they can take the time to put together that paper that is due," said Roy. "Beyond that, what's probably going to happen is that we're going to have a very accelerated lecture schedule. We're going to be teaching nights, weekends, that kind of thing."

At a meeting Tuesday night, MUNFA members decided overwhelmingly to stay on the picket line. Union members were also made aware that talks with the administration have ceased temporarily, but would resume shortly. The two sides have until Monday to try and reach an agreement before classes are supposed to resume.

"I'm afraid that so long as the univer-

sity is not prepared to rethink its negotiating strategy, I don't see negotiations proceeding in any manner," said Roy.

Roy also expressed concern about students feeling that they are somehow trapped in the middle of the strike and negotiations.

"I wish we had some other way of accomplishing our objectives and all I can say is we recognize that there's damage here and when we get back we'll do everything we possibly can to correct that damage. The will is there. We all care about our students."

Most students at Memorial appear to be siding with their professors in their battle with the administration, even though some feel that the university's officials have been trying to get them to oppose the strike.

"This is trying to pit the students against the professors and it's not going to happen," said Social Work student Kelly Piercey. "[The profs] support us all the time. We don't even know who the administration is."



## Endangered Species Unhappy with Liberals' Record

By DARREN STEWART  
*CUP, Ottawa*

A cougar, a whooping crane, a monarch butterfly, and a Vancouver Island marmot were among the endangered species that crashed the unveiling of the Liberal party's platform launch yesterday.

Activists dressed as various Canadian endangered species attempted to join the crowd at the posh hotel lobby in downtown Ottawa.

Hotel staff and RCMP members escorted the group out of the foyer moments before Prime Minister Jean Chrétien arrived to give the platform speech.

Lee Ann Mallett, deputy director of the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), said the group intended to raise awareness of the lack of species-at-risk legislation in Canada.

"The Liberals have broken so many promises that they've made," said Mallett.

Mallett, who escorted the costumed group, said they didn't intend to interrupt the event, rather, they hoped to remind the Liberal party, the media and the public that there is still no legislation protecting Canadian endangered species.

"There are people actually thinking that we have species at risk legislation seeing as the Liberals have introduced so many times now," she said.

"We're hoping to remind them that the legislation is dying on the order paper."

Environment minister David Anderson was sitting just inside as the costumed group left the foyer. He later responded to the group's concerns, saying that endangered species legislation would be a high priority, should he hold onto his position as environment minister.

"I'm reintroducing the [species-at-risk] bill immediately as the house resumes. If we had not had an election, the endangered species bill would have been passed in June, but as we're having an election the bill will still be passed in June," said Anderson.

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# McGill Prof Explores Possibility of 'Career Pill'

BY LAROUS PEOPLES  
News Reporter

For most women, having children comes at a high cost to their career.

But it may not have to anymore.

Dr. Roger Gosden, a specialist in reproductive biology in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at McGill, is working on a 'career pill', which expands women's reproductive years. This pill, a form of birth control, would delay menopause by preserving the egg supply of women over thirty.

"Many people want to defer having a child. Those would be the people this pill could help," said Gosden.

The research is far from over. Gosden suggests that it has just begun and could take ten years before the pill arrives on the market.

"This research calls for the highest standards of safety because you're deal-

ing with people who are healthy," he said.

What are the benefits of the pill if developed? According to Gosden, it is possible that the pill would enable "fertility to be better related to the biological age of the ovary."

This means that the pill would enable women to produce eggs that stand a better chance of being fertilized. This would be possible because the ovary would remain in its most productive stage for a longer period of time.

The focus then, for Gosden, is increasing the chances for women who want to become pregnant later in life.

Gosden acknowledges that many laypeople feel that scientists in the field of reproductive technology should not be concerned about incorporating societal input in their research. "I wouldn't want to submit my research to sociologists,"

he laughed. But Gosden argues that research of this kind should be judged by his peers alone, who may have a better grasp of the broader moral issues involved.

"If we are successful, the pill will help women to conceive from their own eggs," he explained. "Due to the poor quality of eggs or menopause women often have to resort to egg donors. There's an ethical dilemma for you [in itself]."

He points to the fact that eggs in the US are very expensive to suggest that there are ethical issues at every turn with reproductive technology.

Suzanne Staggenborg, a McGill sociology professor, thinks that while Gosden's pill seems to propose a solution for women who want career and children, she believes some broader issues need to be examined alongside research of Gosden's type.

"The culture of the workplace needs to change," argued Staggenborg.

She points to the fact that most corporate employment requires an incredible number of hours at the job. Despite the fact that women in North America are gaining greater flexibility with their jobs, workers still get judged by how much they work, she adds.

Cutting down hours that men work as well as women would shift the family responsibilities in ways she thinks that many men would support, particularly those interested in having families.

"I'm not against reproductive technology," said Staggenborg, making it clear that social types of research should be performed alongside the likes of Gosden's and not instead of it.

Are students at McGill interested in taking such a pill? Yshia Wallace, an



Dr. Roger Gosden

McGill U1 English major, would not take the pill proposed by Gosden for a couple of reasons.

"I don't plan to have that many children that I'd need to be fertile for an extended period of time," said Wallace. "Call me old fashioned, but I don't like the idea of someone interfering with my body's natural cycle."



## G-20 Protesters Still Locked-up

*Local activist calls crackdown politically-motivated*

BY ROBERT SCALIA  
The Link, Montreal

Three protesters arrested for allegedly throwing rocks at police officers at last Monday's G-20 demonstrations in Montreal are still behind bars.

Stéphane Blais and Daniel Carrière, both 18, and Kevin Spillane, 25, were arrested outside the Sheraton Hotel along with 36 other protesters for "illegal gathering" and "participation in a riot" early last week.

On Wednesday, Oct. 25, the three were also charged with armed assault on a police officer and were denied bail in a hearing at the Montreal Courthouse.

Spillane and Blais are presently being detained in the Centre de Détention Rivière des Prairies, while Carrière is at the Bordeaux Prison.

"Their detention is political," said Jaggi Singh Saturday.

Singh, one of Montreal's best-known anti-globalization activists, was the only other protester detained for more than 24 hours.

The three will remain incarcerated for at least another two weeks while they await their individual trials.

Pascal Lescarbeau, Blais' lawyer, has appealed Wednesday's bail ruling to Quebec's Superior Court, claiming that the

law calls for bail to be denied only when a defendant is deemed a threat to society or a risk to flee. Blais' preliminary hearing are set for Nov. 17.

Lescarbeau said Blais will probably end up spending more time in jail awaiting his trial than anyone else, even though the street youth has no previous criminal record.

"I think the judge simply wanted to make a point," Lescarbeau told Canadian University Press this week.

In a press release by the G-20 Welcoming Committee that organized last week's protests, Judge Gérard Locas is quoted as saying that releasing the three men would undermine confidence in Canada's legal system because police officers are the "guardians of democracy."

"I would like to know the context in which these three guys are being charged with armed aggression. I think [their actions] could be justifiable," said Singh, alleging that riot police targeted innocent protesters walking away peacefully.

Singh said he was whacked in the stomach with a baton and witnessed another protester get knocked to the ground while attending to a pepper spray victim.

Singh was arrested shortly after the demonstration, while he and two friends were headed to another demonstration in

support of those arrested.

"[The police] are trying to cherry-pick those who they think are the leaders of the anti-globalization movement," Singh said.

He spent the night at Bonsecours jail. The following afternoon, Singh received a separate hearing in which the Crown called him a "risk to public security" and demanded he be kept in custody until trial.

He was transferred to RDP prison Wednesday morning and waited until 3:30 p.m. to receive his bail hearing. Singh said Poletti testified that Singh's speech on Monday incited his alleged "followers" to riot.

With a court date slated for Jan. 16, Singh said he has been ordered to lay low and to avoid protests that may potentially turn violent.

"They're keeping me from protesting effectively," said Singh.

He said he is worried that his hearing could be further delayed until after a summit meeting of the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas next year.

Thirty-four Western Hemisphere governments are scheduled meet in Quebec City next April for the event which is expected to draw thousands of protesters and tight security from RCMP and local police forces.

## Growing Public Support for Post-Secondary Education: Poll

BY MARK GREENAN  
Fulcrum, Ottawa

The Canadian Federation of Students released a poll Tuesday suggesting that Canadians support affordable post-secondary education and disapprove of the Liberal party's record on education spending.

"These results show that the majority of Canadians were looking for something else in both the mini-budget and the February, 2000 budget and will be looking for something better," said Michael Conlon, national chair of the CFS, on Tuesday.

The student lobby organization interpreted the poll results as a sharp public rebuke of the Liberals, who released their election platform on yesterday afternoon.

And following the Liberals' announcement, Conlon said that it seems obvious that the Liberals still aren't worried about education funding.

"There's still nothing to address core funding problems in post-secondary education," he said.

The Liberals' platform made no mention of restoring core funding or transfer payments, although it did call for "registered individual learning accounts," which are intended to allow the government to contribute to people's savings for education.

Responding to the poll released Tuesday, Conlon said, "only 24 per cent approve of the federal government's record on post-secondary education. This is a record that included the Millennium scholarship fiasco, the lowest expenditures on [post-secondary education] Canadian history and a patchwork of superficial measures that aid, rather than address, the crisis in post-secondary education."

"This is surely a disturbing statistic for a Prime Minister that prides himself on his ability to talk about and prepare the economy of innovation and growth."

The poll was conducted by Ipsos-Reid between October 19 and 25, the week immediately following the mini-budget, and was commissioned by the CFS to examine Canadians' attitudes on education issues.

Mauril Bélanger, Liberal MP for Ottawa-Vanier, said he's proud of the

Liberal record on post-secondary education, despite the poll results.

He said that the federal government has made several investments in post-secondary education through the Millennium Scholarship Foundation, the Canadian Foundation for Innovation, and research agencies. He also said he thinks the federal election will be about deciding how to divide the budgetary surplus between spending, debt reduction, and tax cuts.

"I believe that Canadians' first spending priority is health, the second is education and the third is the environment," said Bélanger.

Bélanger said he acknowledges that students are facing a large financial burden and tuition is too high, though he added that the regulation of fees is not his government's responsibility.

But Conlon said he hoped voters would send a clear message to the federal government that post-secondary education is a priority. He added that students, in particular, should get out and vote.

"I think that this election, more than any other in the past 10 years, offers a clear choice to voters," said Conlon. "We are actually going to get to choose exactly what kind of education policies we want in place."

The poll shows that 76 per cent of respondents would like to see a federal re-investment in higher education, while 79 per cent of those surveyed would like to see some of the surplus put back into post-secondary education. Only four per cent of Canadians surveyed expressed support for reducing education spending.

Seventy-nine per cent of respondents were concerned about the level of student debt in Canada. According to the CFS, the average student debt load has increased to \$25,000 from \$8,000 in 1993. The Liberals have cut \$5.2 billion dollars from post-secondary education transfers to the provinces since 1993. Finally, the poll shows 75 per cent support for a federal role in setting national standards for post-secondary education, like the federal government does for health care through the Canada Health Act.

The poll is accurate within 2.5 percentage points 19 times out of 20.



# McGill's Profs: Leaders in Research

## *Science profs most productive: study*

BY JOSLYN OOSENBURG  
News Reporter

The Montreal-based independent research group OST has found that science professors at McGill are the most productive in the country.

The Observatoire des Sciences et des Technologies, in its second annual report on Canadian universities' performance in research, rated schools in the field of science and engineering using three different indicators, including research productivity of professors. By all indicators, McGill profs came out on top.

Benoit Godin, director of the OST, feels that his organization's rankings are far superior to the more familiar university ranking released annually by Maclean's magazine.

"The main indicator to evaluate research is still publication," he said. "We are quite unsatisfied by the indicator chosen by Maclean's, which is the volume of funds researchers get. We are interested mainly in measuring output."

According to the OST, McGill professors produce, on average, 2.72 publications per year. University of Toronto and University of Alberta professors, who produce an average of 2.23 and 2.10 publications respectively, follow McGill in the ranking. Professors at all other universities in Canada release an average of less than two publications per year.

The data for the report was taken from the Science Citation Index, which catalogs almost 4,000 of the world's leading journals.

"Of course, McGill researchers can publish in local journals which are not in the database," said Godin, "but we know that in science in Canada and in Quebec there are not a lot of local science journals. Most researchers work to publish in the best journals."

Alan Shaver, Dean of McGill's Faculty of Science, is pleased with these results, but not at all surprised.

"There is a tremendous amount of energy and excitement about research at McGill," he said. "McGill profs and students

are, and always have been, at the forefront of new knowledge and understanding. Cream rises to the top."

Shaver believes that this ranking is especially meaningful for McGill because, despite being identified as the most productive university in Canada, it still does not receive the most funds.

"[McGill's ranking] reflects great dedication to the task of research despite chronic underfunding by the provincial government," said Shaver, emphasizing that McGill's Profs are underpaid. "They generally run extremely efficient research groups and get the maximum output per dollar input."

Clara Péron, VP University Affairs for the SSMU Student Council Executive, is also proud of McGill's ranking.

"I think it shows that we do have a commitment to excelling. There's a drive behind the university to continually achieve," said Péron.

However, she is not entirely satisfied that the university's research at McGill is properly benefiting all of its students.

"I'm really happy that McGill is producing so much research, but I'd like to see it feed into the undergraduate programs," she said.

"What I'd like to see is that the strong research we have at this university gets incorporated into undergraduate programs. I think that undergraduates would benefit a lot from that exposure."

She points to the Boyer Report, a controversial examination of undergraduate education in research universities, published in 1998 through the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

"Basically, [the report] shows that by integrating research components into undergraduate education, the undergraduate is better prepared for graduate school, and really learns how to apply the knowledge learned theoretically in the classroom," said Péron. "Students learn more that way."

Shaver agrees that research is important in undergraduate education but suggests that students should bear the

responsibility of seeking out their own research opportunities.

"McGill's mission is the advancement of learning," he said. "The profs have chosen to accomplish this through teaching and research. Having outstanding researchers as profs opens the door to the excitement of research for undergraduates. I encourage undergraduates to ask their profs about research and to explore opportunities to work in research."



Kyle Drushka

## Montreal Bicyclists Out for Critical Mass

BY ADRIENNE GOLLOP  
News Reporter

Bike activists from all over Montreal took to the streets on Friday afternoon to peddle their pro-bicycle message.

About 100 cyclists, many from McGill, rode together for one hour in the Critical Mass demonstration. They assembled in Phillips Square on Ste. Catherine Street and crossed the city in an attempt to demonstrate that cycling is the best form of transportation and to show motorists that they have an alternative way of getting around town.

Laura Rostas, a U1 Environmental Science student, was one of the organizers of Friday's Critical Mass, which has become a monthly event. A member of Greening McGill, a working group at QPIRG, Rostas believes that Critical Mass makes a political, social and environmental statement. Not only does it serve as a social function for Montreal's cyclists, it also promotes bicycles because of their low use of energy and accessibility to poorer citizens as the ideal mode of urban transportation.

"Critical Mass is about awareness, and having a presence," said Rostas.

Increased bike use among city dwellers would place Canada closer to its stated goals of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, she explains, with the accompanied

benefits of less urban traffic gridlock and a healthier society.

"It lets people know there's an alternative," she added.

The procession weaved its way through downtown from Ste. Catherine Street, crossing St. Laurent, through Old Montreal, and into Chinatown. The mood was festive as some bikers wore handmade signs on their backs, others rang bike bells or used noisemakers, and still others painted their faces and wore colourful costumes. Onlookers on the sides of the streets were greeted with loud hoots and cries as they stared in wonderment at the cluster of cyclists.

"The main point of Critical Mass is to have fun," said Rostas. "It's organized at the grassroots level and we tell people when and where to meet, even though people come to do this for different reasons."

Jane Wheately, an avid cyclist who participated in Friday's ride, said that more effort should be devoted to encouraging Montrealers to take up bicycling.

"Cycling is a more sustainable, healthier and cost-effective means of transportation," said Wheately. "People have to understand that cars are a polluting form of transportation."

At times, the snake-like chain of bikers stretched for three or more blocks, and occasionally prevented motorists from entering intersections in an effort to keep

the group of cyclists together. Slowing traffic is incidental to the Critical Mass organizer's primary aim of raising the profile of cycling and creating a car-free space for bikers.

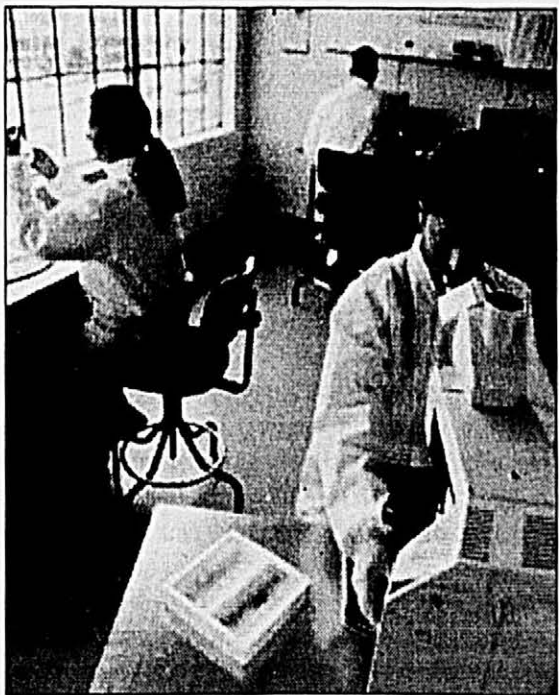
Finally the assembly rode back into the center of the city and ended up at the McGill College and Sherbrooke St. intersection where the group made repetitive circles, blocking traffic for a few minutes. At one point a frustrated cab driver angrily shouted, "I have somewhere to go!"

Rostas explains that Critical Mass does not aim to annoy car drivers, but instead to give bicyclists their proper place on the roads. Before setting out on the excursion, cyclists were reminded by the organizers that Critical Mass is not designed to anger or annoy motorists.

"We aren't trying to block traffic," she said, "rather we are trying to show that we are traffic." She adds that many motorists, in fact, give the procession honks of support, and are more than willing to wait an extra moment for the bikes to go by.

Critical Mass started in San Francisco in 1993. It now takes place in more than a hundred cities worldwide, mostly on the last Friday of every month. The next Critical Mass in Montreal is scheduled for Friday, Nov. 24.

For more information on how to get involved, call QPIRG at 398-7432.



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editor and comments from readers on our  
Commentary pages. Send them to  
letters@mcgilldaily.com. The Daily reserves  
the right to edit for length, clarity, and  
potential libellous content.

## Why does the Bookstore sell Leni Riefenstahl calendars?

hyde park



By MICHAEL DAYAN

Looking for a swastika armband? Just can't find that collectors' Nazi desk flag? Perhaps you want a signed photo of Hitler or a pack of SS playing cards?

Look no further! While the aforementioned items may not be stocked at our Chapters-owned McGill bookstore, you'll be pleased to find the latest extra-large Leni Riefenstahl calendar.

Leni in brief:

- A close confidant of Hitler, so close that she is rumoured to have been his mistress.
- Unrepentant Nazi propagandist. Her cinematography worked to simultaneously crystallize notions of an "Aryan" race and Nazi supremacy.

More can and, through historical examination, should be said about this nefarious but talented individual. Her memory should not be effaced from our historical records. But neither should she be glorified. Books on Leni, for edification, are important. Calendars on Leni, for adornment, are unconscionable.

I addressed three Chapters employees—a clerk, a buyer, and a manager—on this matter, and was told that not much would be done. Sandra Scianpacone, buyer for the stationary department, did investigate: "I looked up Riefenstahl on an internet site and found that she only made her film before Hitler." Wrong answer! Leni's *Triumph of the Will*, on the Nuremberg rallies, was made in 1934. Not only is Sandra's argument factually incorrect, but it also attempts to discount the magnitude of Riefenstahl's work in vilifying non-Arians and congealing the Nazi German Army: germane components to Hitler's force.

Some might consider the issue one of free speech. In Canada we limit speech that is hateful. At McGill we also limit behav-

iour, such as the display of offensive materials, which may induce hostility within the academic/work environment. There are many venues to buy Nazi paraphernalia. Why make McGill one of them?

While I recognize the value of stocking material beyond the typical function of an educational bookstore, I cannot condone the sale of material that glamorizes Nazi sympathizers—or in this case, the leading Nazi propagandist, Leni. The problem with the calendar isn't so much that it consists of pictures—it's that it consists only of pictures with no real historical explanation—and these pictures are like 12 little posters—calendars provide a year's worth of pin-ups for hero worship. Caveat emptor! This calendar is in fact passed off as an ostensibly value-neutral product.

Go watch *Olympiad*. Go watch *Triumph of the Will*. One should not cover over Leni's contribution to fascism by paying blind tribute to her without the benefit of the kind of commentary a book would provide regarding her very real political affiliations.

This calendar is devoid of academic value. Chapters should consider the destructive effects of abetting in the P.R., lionizing, and monetary profit of this despicable historical figure.

Your comments are always welcome  
at letters@mcgilldaily.com

## WRITE FOR

## THE MCGILL DAILY

## NEWS MEETINGS:

MONDAY 4:00 TO 6:00PM

## CULTURE MEETINGS:

FRIDAY 4:30 PM

## PHOTOGRAPHY MEETINGS:

MONDAY 5:00PM

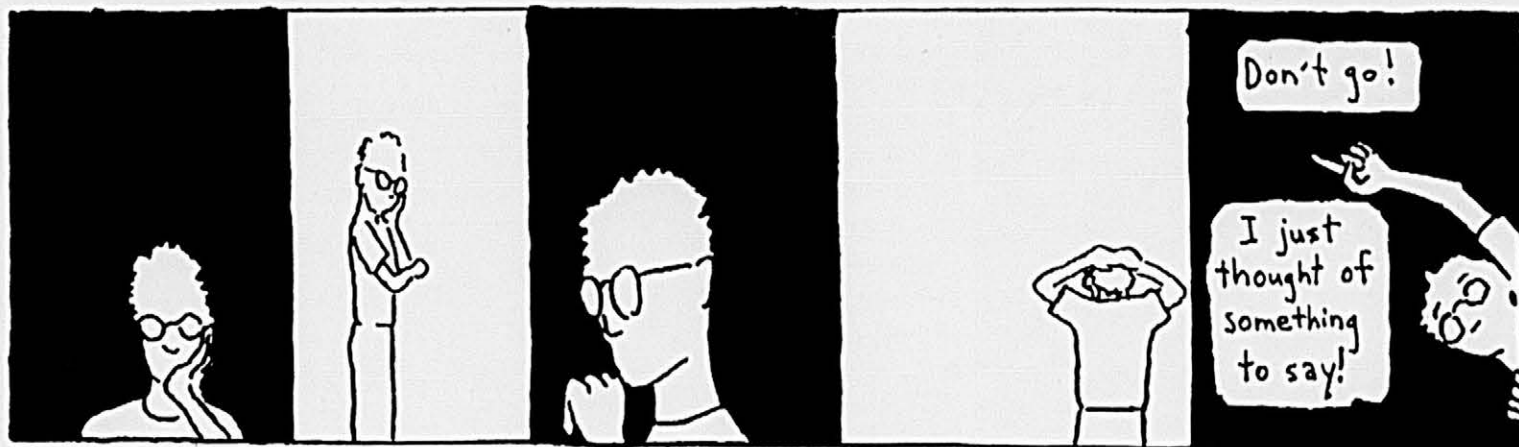
## MIND&amp;BODY MEETINGS:

FRIDAYS 5:00 PM

## EVERYONE WELCOME!

ALL MEETINGS IN SHATNER B-03

## ROOMMATES by John Paul Koning



comics@mcgilldaily.com

# Slibel & Lander

Grope and  
Flail!

Your forum for all the latest campus scoops

Slibel was proud to see a fellow Dailyite causing a bit of a stir this week. Seems kultur editor **Tyler Hargreaves** sent a not-so-nice letter to the old grey lady of Canadian print, The Globe and Mail. Hargreaves was taking potshots at Globe columnists **Peter Gzowski** and **Allan Fotheringham** for their boring and indulgent writing styles and topics. Hargreaves was pleasantly surprised to see his letter printed in the Globe last Tuesday. The intrigue doesn't end there as it turns out. Frank magazine, for those of you who don't know, covers all the gossip, rumour and lies that seep in and out of Canadian politics, business and journalism. Slibel never misses the media gossip column and in this week's edition Hargreaves' letter comes up. It turns out that the editor of the Globe, Richard Addis, is getting tired of the old men's scribbles too. Frank reports that the editor's "displeasure with Fotheringham is no secret," and, after giving an example of one of their tête-à-tête's, it continues, "More recently the Globe ran a remarkable letter-to-the-editor which savaged Gzowski for his aimlessly random tidbits of news from the past week and Foth's self-indulgent battle of one-upmanship with **Daily Tubbyite John Fraser**." Frank thinks Hargreaves' prose is printable, as we do...occasionally,

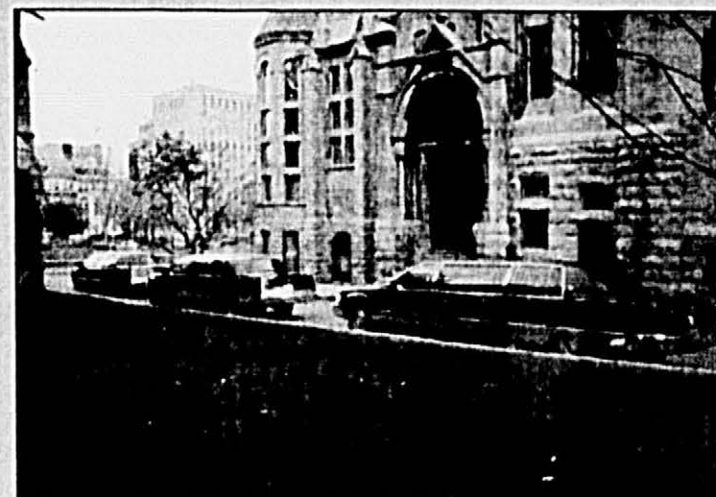
and quotes him "This turgid twosome from journalism's past," opined the reader, 'Are long past their prime and their vain drivels cripples your whole paper.'" Apparently Hargreaves stirred the pot as "This set newsroom wags speculating that Addis' effort to emulate the Daily Telegraph lineup of **clapped out geezers** has not been the success he'd hoped and he is preparing the tumbrils. Is it possible Addis ordered Comment Editor **Patrick Martin** to run the damaging letter-to-the-editor in anticipation of changes?" Hargreaves is of course flattered to be recognized for his contribution to the management of human resources at the Globe and has promised to let Slibel know when the big boys on Front Street drop the offending rambles and give him a job....

### ON TRACK ON CRACK

**ON TRACK:** Kevin "W." McPhee, for his bungle-free reading of Charlotte's Web for literacy. Maybe now he can read to the kids in the non-existent daycare. Perhaps the Dubya stands for Wilbur?

**ON CRACK:** Mark Chodos, aka Chodaboy, for using those cushy SSMU offices with their ethernet hookups to rack up mad frags in Quake

## CAMPUS EYE by Pierre-Alain Parfond



Bigwigs and mucketymucks, including Archbishop Cardinal Claude Turcotte, arrive at McGill's lower campus Tuesday afternoon for the inauguration of the Kennedy Smith Chair in Catholic Studies



## letters



### NEW SEATING IN DISREPAIR

As everyone at McGill knows, when you have back-to-back classes in Stewart Bio and Adams Auditorium, it's difficult enough to make the beginning of the latter lecture, much less find a decent seat. However, the latter has become an almost insurmountable struggle recently as rows of those cushy new seats are inexplicably broken.

Broken how? The chairs are now only slightly attached to the floor, meaning that the desks slant forward at an angle impossible for writing, and the seats themselves are similarly tilted so that one must use

one's legs as a brace to prevent collapse. I have to say that it is really difficult to focus on a lecture when my calf muscles are burning from the attempt to keep myself from hurtling out of the seat and over the steeply-raked rows into Professor Paul.

It disappoints me that after all the fanfare with which these fancy-dancy seats were welcomed to our hallowed lecture halls that they should be functioning so poorly only halfway through the semester. The previous seats were admittedly hard, uncomfortable and ugly, but they did allow students to sit without major physical exertion. I'm perplexed that the new seats are already in such poor repair, considering that I have never seen anyone using them inappropriately.

Time to buy a lawn chair at Canadian Tire, I suppose.

Delia Tenjensen  
U1 Political Science

### OKAY TO DISRESPECT THE POPE?

I've been reading with interest the abortion-Catholicism discussion. In par-

ticular, I found Gloria Tevez's letter (October 30) to be interesting - not because I agreed with her position more than anyone else's, nor because I disagreed with it more than others, but because of a few phrases she used.

"[If abortion isn't legal] women will forever be at the mercy of our own biology, and of men." I won't disagree with the first part because, although birth control is effective, it's not foolproof. The latter part, though, I do take exception to. It is not the fault of men that women get pregnant, or at least not solely their fault. It takes two people, and both parties know upon having (hetero) sex that there could be a pregnancy as a result, and both parties also know that it will be the woman who will be the one pregnant. I happen to believe that abortion should be legal, but I do not believe that it should be legal because otherwise women are being somehow victimised by men. For true equality, we need to take responsibility for our actions and their results.

Saying that women are victimized by men for pregnancies is not allowing

women to take responsibility for their actions which have helped in the conception.

I also took exception to the "idiot Pope" whose position simply shows his "stupidity and backwardness" and lack of respect for life. (For the record, I am not Catholic, and I strongly disagree with the church's standpoints on abortion and birth control which I find shortsighted.)

Funny how it's okay to disrespect the Pope here. Ad hominem arguments are never valid arguments, and that Ms. Tevez felt the only possible argument with the church's views were attacks on the Pope shows that she doesn't understand the pro-life stance. I do not agree with that position, but I do see its validity. Calling someone else an idiot when you're trying to debate something might be saying exactly what you feel, but it won't change anyone's mind.

Jill Heather Flegg  
U3 Linguistics

Your letters are always welcome!  
Send them to [letters@mcgilldaily.com](mailto:letters@mcgilldaily.com).

### John Ortved can't stop being THE ART DUMMY

## Hey Stockwell, Gimme a Treat!

Trick or treat, smell my feet, I make my own scotch with moss and peat. Halloween is fun for me because there are only so many nights in a year children will accept candy from complete strangers without a moment's hesitation. My costume won; I was a bible salesman who had been run over by a religious pizza-delivery boy, or Irony, your choice.

Tricks are definitely more fun than treats. Don't get me wrong, I care about the treats. I care about candy more than I care about you. You know why? Because we both know I can't turn my back on my readers even for a second, but candy, candy is loyal to the end. The bitter, bitter, end. Back to the tricks and yes of course the tricks you pay for, but get your mind out of the gutter nonetheless. I love tricking people because of the sense of satisfaction one receives from harming someone else. Terrorizing others indiscriminately is the true meaning of Christmas, I mean Halloween.

October was my parents' "Vegas month," so Halloween at my house was pretty much a free-for-all of fun, freedom and more times than not, fire. I'm not going to regale you with hilarious stories of Halloween hijinks from my neglect-ridden childhood, suffice to say, we sure knew how to sock it to those Unicef bitches. The point is, I learned young that Halloween isn't just about candy and costumes, it's about how much shit you can cause without getting arrested or beat up. Remember, any kid that's stupid enough

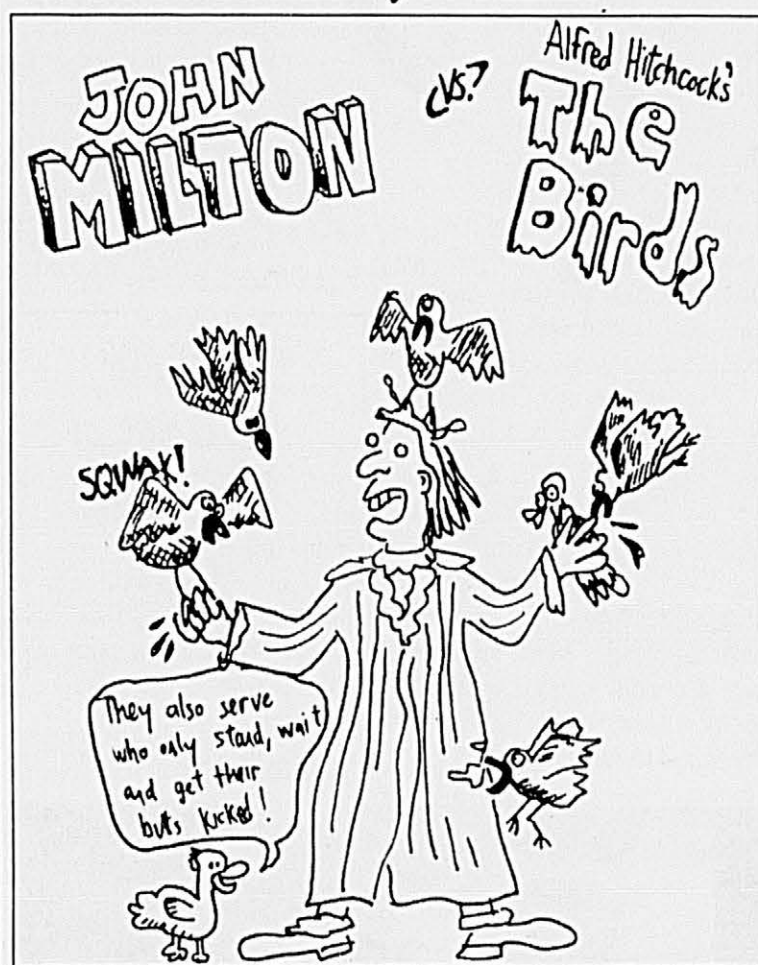
to trick or treat alone is asking to get his candy stolen at knife-point.

You know what I learned in Bible class the other day? God knows what you're thinking in your heart of hearts. Yeah. Let's hope he can't read for shit. If there was a god of Halloween, and there is, the devil, I'd make sure he knew just how much I appreciate his special day, and I do. In the spirit of Satan, I spent Tuesday night defacing Liberal posters, stealing from the homeless and harassing cheerleaders. Happy Halloween Stock!

Does Stockwell Day remind anyone else of one of those well-dressed kids who goes around trying to convince people to believe in Jesus? "The greatest trick the Devil ever played..." While Halloween was definitely the biggest event this week, an election was also called. So while we're passing around scary stories, I'll share one about the revival of early nineties hard-line conservatism, touched up with a facelift and tummy tuck. I swear, we were way better off with Preston Manning. He was the Bill Gates of right wing Canadian politics: powerful, but just too dorky to pose a real threat. Now we've got this handsome Hitlerian as head honcho of what may very well be our next government, or at least the next biggest thing in a minority House.

Then again, the alternatives don't exactly present a depanneur's worth of variety. It's like choosing between Coke and Pepsi. People will inevitably take a hard line stance on one or the other, but deep down, we know they're both pretty

## TITANS OF LITERATURE BATTLE FAMOUS MOVIE MONSTERS by Steve Barker



much the same. Choose Coke and you get that nasty grit on your teeth (a racist, homophobic, small-minded leader who doesn't give a shit about healthcare), choose Pepsi and you win the Pepsi Challenge (tax cuts, ridiculous spending, empty promises and a senile old head of state that's been in the game so long and burned so many bridges, his only choice is to keep running until he pulls an FDR, because unlike his predecessor, there aren't a whole lot of law firms and brokerage houses looking to put Jean Chretien on their board for millions in stock options).

If Chretien had any consideration for his party, he would have passed the reins to Paul Martin and retired with at least a little dignity. Instead, he's decided to grab those reins in a vice-like death grip and use them to

whip his old and tired political pony into a horse race against a much younger, virile steed, and if he wins, it will be by a nose. Chretien's horse has only experience on its side. It's a tired old nag, not even reliable anymore. He's kicked the other horses in the barn way too many times to expect the support he'll need and while he's an old favourite, he knows that's all he's got. He's praying we haven't decided it's time to put him out to pasture, because Chretien knows; once this ride is over, there's going to be a truck waiting outside Sussex drive and the sign says Glue Factory.

The Art Dummy appears on Thursdays in Commentary. Your reactions are always welcomed at [letters@mcgilldaily.com](mailto:letters@mcgilldaily.com)



## Someone's Momma Raised a Fool

BY HALA ELGAMMAL

I read the article "Artsies: A Bunch of Slackers?" (Hyde Park, October 30) several times, the first three in confusion (was this some kind of joke?), the next in anger. I don't know what would possess someone who is a member of the Arts faculty to demean not only themselves but over half of the student body with insulting insinuations. I don't know if the author was in a particularly self-deprecating mood the day she wrote the article, or perhaps the realization that her life as a science student was over officially dawned on her and in her eyes the present situation wasn't as glamorous.

A deep running stereotype that Science students are more worthy of the degree they achieve than Arts, Education, or Management students, was perpetuated in Ms. Collins' piece, and as sad as that is, what makes it worse is the fact that it was a case of one of our own turning against us. If the author hadn't been an Arts student perhaps the article wouldn't have been so shocking.

As for labelling philosophy majors as "self-righteous," or Art students in general as "pompous," I don't think I am the only Arts student who found that insulting but at the same time hilariously odd. I may stand alone on this point but did anyone else sense any bitterness? "You can often get 30 percent of your grade just for participation..." What courses are you taking Ms. Collins, and why haven't I heard about them? If there is such a thing I sure as hell hope I am registered in them next semester.

Who exactly do you think you are to say that Arts students "...justify to themselves that, somehow, they are doing something worthwhile here at university, or that they have to feel that despite their poor prospects, they are actually learning something."

How dare you degrade our pursuit of a higher education! What exactly are you doing in university- as an English major of all things- if you see it as such a waste of time? I can assure you that my education is not as worthless as you believe it to be, but the fact that you already see it as such is a form of insult I hadn't even imagined possible from another student.

I'm suspicious of your major, Ms. Collins. I find it hard to believe that a fellow English major would have so little respect for such a wonderful field of study.



# sayonara échec, hello weltanschauung



plans for world travel had to be put on hold in favour of practical financial considerations. During this time, she worked on some 50 novels, none of which was ever published.

Then she wrote *The Last Samurai*.

"I said in my innocence that I could write this book, and get some money and go off and travel," DeWitt said of her unromantically fiscal motivations for beginning to write the book in 1988. "As you're working on something that initial, very simple idea becomes very interesting. Apparently, this would happen to Wagner, who had financial difficulties. He would suddenly have an idea for a very simple love story, that simple idea wouldn't sound very different from a detective novel or a romance. He'd just start working on it and eleven years later it would be groundbreaking."

After its own 12 years of incubation, *The Last Samurai* was picked up by publishers. They promoted it as the next wave in popular literature. It earned DeWitt the cash she originally yearned for to make her way around the world, and then some.

## A PUBLICIST LURKS

On the dust jacket of *The Last Samurai* a small black-and-white photo shows DeWitt with youthfully blunt-cut straight blond hair. Her eyes, enormous in her small face, are turned bashfully away from the lens. Her expression shows a mild irritation mixed with serious reserve. The image gives the impression of an author who would prefer nothing above the lonely company of her favorite writing implement. The woman in the picture struck me as someone who would be difficult to interview, one I would have to prod and chatter at to draw out quotable talk.

DeWitt is not that woman.

She came striding into the McGill bookstore with a copy of

her bright yellow book tucked under her arm as an identifier. Noticing me clutching my own copy, she giggled slightly, and spoke of a common motif in Greek mythology: "Like a child separated from a mother at birth, you know they turn up, and they have matching tokens?" I nodded, relieved to have taken that Greek Mythology course. One suspects that DeWitt's tolerance for the less literate is not terribly great.

Her accent is a mix of America and England: she speaks as if she was born three-quarters of the way across the Atlantic, due East. Her "R's" are soft, and she throws in lots of "you knows" when even she can't keep up with her rapid-fire conversation.

DeWitt was clad in an utterly unremarkable black book-tour suit, doubtless chosen for its relative aptness for every occasion and for its resistance to visible grime. Her footwear, a pair of ankle-height black boots with stiletto heels, seemed slightly out of place in the demure ensemble. They suggested that DeWitt is not naturally inclined to spend her days in understated black suits. As her publicist lurked at a nearby table in the coffee shop with less than Secret Service-standard subtlety, it almost seemed as if someone had told her to behave: to temper her eccentricities and smooth her rougher edges.

## NO CLASSICISTS WANTED

Finding little call for classicists in the London help wanted ads, DeWitt worked at low-paying jobs before she came up with the strange idea of making her fortune through writing. Of course, at first it didn't work. "I quit my job - I was working as a secretary at a law firm, and I thought, 'I'm just going to give myself a month. I will do the research first, I will not write anything, and then I will give myself a month to get this on paper.' That was the plan." At the end of the month she had a draft, but she lacked the funds to see the book through to its completion. "It wasn't totally finished, but I didn't have enough money to give myself another month. Why not just an extra five hundred pounds, and it would've been finished in 1995!"

Needing to support herself, DeWitt went back to secretarial work at a London law firm. One of the lawyers there showed the book to his wife, an independent film producer. She quickly optioned the rights to film the book, and before long DeWitt found herself following a convoluted string of connections that led to the publishing division of Talk magazine, owned by Miramax films.

But the more people that got involved, the more uncomfortable DeWitt felt. She found herself frustrated by meddling editors and agents who, she said, "were missing the point."

DeWitt says that publishers should grant authors a minimal amount of money in an advance so they can afford to focus in and finish their books. "Let's say that you have a month. One thing that can happen with that block of time is that the writer, who knows the book best, can use that month. That person can think about nothing but the book and how to make it good. Another thing you can do is to allocate that time to an editor who has a million other things to do. And that is the month that you give to the book, whatever level of attention that editor can give to it. To me, it was self-evident."

## LITTLE MAN LUDO

*The Last Samurai* is the story of Sibylla, who, like DeWitt, is an American expatriate who studied Classics at Oxford and then settled down in London. However, DeWitt emphasized, she is not Sibylla. "I was originally from the States, and I went to Oxford, I did study classics," she admitted, but maintained that the character is not purely autobiographical. Rather, she explained, writing was a way for her to express parts of her personality that were better off kept dormant. "You might have all these different aspects of yourself, and so in a book you can give each of those bits of your-

BY JEAN HANNAH EDELSTEIN  
The McGill Daily

**A**rts scholars beware: if you're not careful, you could end up like Helen DeWitt.

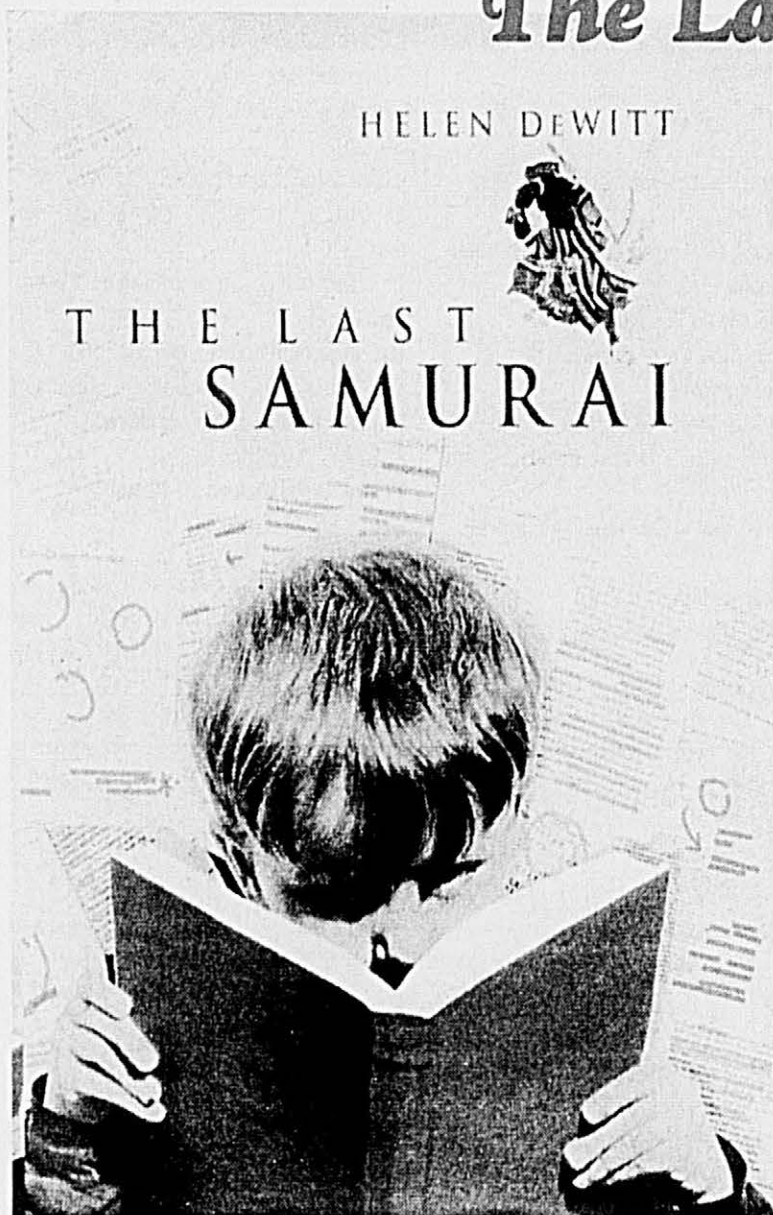
Educated in classics first at Smith College in Massachusetts and then at Oxford, the American-born DeWitt worked in a succession of relatively menial jobs after graduation: legal secretary, Taco Bell lackey, Dunkin' Donuts employee. Money was tight, resources were limited, and ambition and



Helen DeWitt discusses her book at the McGill Bookstore.



# Multilingual and multitalented author chops up rejection letters with *The Last Samurai*



whether it stems from pure innocence or from intellectual snobbery.

## AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF A SHADOW

Unlike DeWitt, Sibylla is the single parent of a brilliant young son, Ludo. By the age of four, he's reading Greek and studying Japanese; by eleven, having exhausted foreign languages, he moves on to differential equations and theoretical physics. All of this is thanks to the careful tutelage of Sibylla, who makes note of methods used by the parents of other young prodigies such as J.S. Mill and Yo Yo Ma. However, DeWitt tried to leave the level of Ludo's actual genius as vague as possible. "In a way, it was a question - one doesn't really know - that capacity to be obsessed about things is something that many children have. If that has a channel, that actually can carry someone a long way. To me, the fascinating question is - actually, we don't know how unusual he is, we have no way of knowing that. If [Sibylla] had ten children and done the same thing with every one, then you

might have a better idea. Perhaps the appeal that it had is asking that question about everybody - one doesn't know if one could be that child."

Although the first half of the book is slightly off-putting, as Sibylla's narrative becomes increasingly depressing, the book becomes most compelling when the task of telling the story is turned over to Ludo, now eleven years old. Pressing his mother for information about the source of his Y-chromosome proves to be somewhat unfruitful, so he starts some intensive research into where he came from. DeWitt's literary gifts shine through as she takes on the difficult task of realistically portraying Ludo. He is a child with a sophisticated intelligence, but childish desires: to find a father figure, to be allowed to pursue what he loves to do, and, above all, to somehow bring joy to the life of his unhappy mother.

DeWitt admitted to slightly modelling Ludo after her ex-husband David, who she spoke about in pleasant, tender tones of a type that are not usually used for reference to ex-husbands. "He was fluently reading Kipling when he was five - you talk to David, you talk to him about what he was like as a child, he always says he was this obnoxious little boy. I'm not convinced that he was. I'm sure he was adorable. It probably is the case that that child is asking lots of questions, and after a while the child probably does get the sense that asking questions is a hassle. I was following this to extremes - if the child became obsessed, it could be this nightmare."

## THE PASSION

As for all those terrible dead-end jobs? The poverty? In retrospect, DeWitt doesn't regret taking such a roundabout route to literary success.

self a whole life - [all the characters] feel autobiographical - of course they're not, but they feel that way because you've given a whole life to something that is really part of you. I mean, my mother is convinced that Sibylla is her." Writing is, in many respects, DeWitt's way of giving life to things that she'd like to do, but doesn't. "I wish I had the courage to be more eccentric than I am. Of course, the reason one holds back from that is because one knows it makes life more difficult."

*The Last Samurai* is laden with literary references, scientific equations, and passages in foreign languages, all produced by DeWitt herself. This did not garner instant editorial approval, she said. Many complained that the book was too intellectual, and printers had trouble reproducing the necessary non-Roman characters, which added to DeWitt's already considerable frustration. DeWitt says she speaks "about ten" languages, a fact she mentions so matter-of-factly that it's hard to decide

"The question of what gives value to life, an intellectual passion, is of course that you could have just as well been in the sciences as the humanities - I think that people who are passionate about science, really, it has nothing to do with a job, it's an intellectual passion. Everybody has times of despair, terrible things happen of course, and the question is, what do you have at this time? Earning an amount of money is not going to help you, your salary or position or the company car.

"These are not things that are going to come to you when you are at rock bottom. And the thing that is there, it's not just a question of reading a text.... You can lose a job, you can lose your money, but your mind is something that can't be taken away. University is a chance to find out what you are able to be passionate about."



## FUN FACTS ABOUT OUR FOUNDER

W.E. Gladstone Murray was well known for being picky when it came to typography. In fact, he was what we would now call a font snob. His grandfather had worked on the presses of The Montreal Star, and it was nothing like the sweetness and light of modern newspaper production. He had to lay down the letters in heavy steel type, and the overworked machines and harried production schedules killed many a man. From this heritage, it is no surprise that W.E. Gladstone Murray founded The Daily in 1911. But this was not his only stellar contribution to the world of letters. He also is responsible for one of the world's favourite typographic symbols, one which you'll find all over The Daily to this very day. Yes, friends, the rumours are true. W.E. invented the ampersand. Commonly called the "and symbol," the ampersand (&) is frequently used in informal writing. With the current fad of "e-mail," its popularity has ballooned. To use this fascinating piece of typography, just hit Shift and 7 simultaneously! Huzzah!



## An Interview with The Mysterious Trash Girl

BY RENATE ROBERTSON  
Daily Staff

The interviewer ran into someone of her acquaintance — someone who will henceforth be called the Mysterious Trash Girl — at 9:04 AM on Friday in front of the Stewart Biology Building. Their conversation was as follows:

**McGill Daily:** My, this lawn looks awfully clean and trash-free today.

**Mysterious Trash Girl:** Thanks. That's because I just spent the past 25 minutes picking all the trash up off of it while people stared at me like I was a fucking freak of nature.

**MD:** Impressive! Do you feel you deserve accolades?

**MTG:** No, I'm just an ordinary citizen doing my — yeah praise the hell out of me.

**MD:** -because, you know, there are people all around the world doing really great things for humanity every day and hardly anyone thanks them. Like human rights workers, for instance. They get shot, even.

**MTG:** (suspiciously eyeing MD's bulging pocket and quickly changing subject) Look! Look at that kid who just lay down on the grass! The only reason he can do that is because I picked up the obscene amounts of trash that were lying there before he was!!

**MD:** So, um, what did you manage to recover?

**MTG:** I got (counting on fingers) candy wrappers, old posters, used Kleenex — I don't know. Lots of nasty shit. Trash. (shrugs) My hands really smell now. Smell them! (thrusts hands in MD's face)

**MD:** Yeah, that's — ooh, that's gross.

**MTG:** And you know what's the worst thing? When I finally lay down on the grass because I finally could, some guy driving by yelled something lewd at me in French!

**MD:** What did he say?

**MTG:** I don't know. I don't speak French.

**MD:** Then how do you know it was lewd?

**MTG:** It sounded—

**MD:** Maybe he said, "Thank you, Trash Girl."

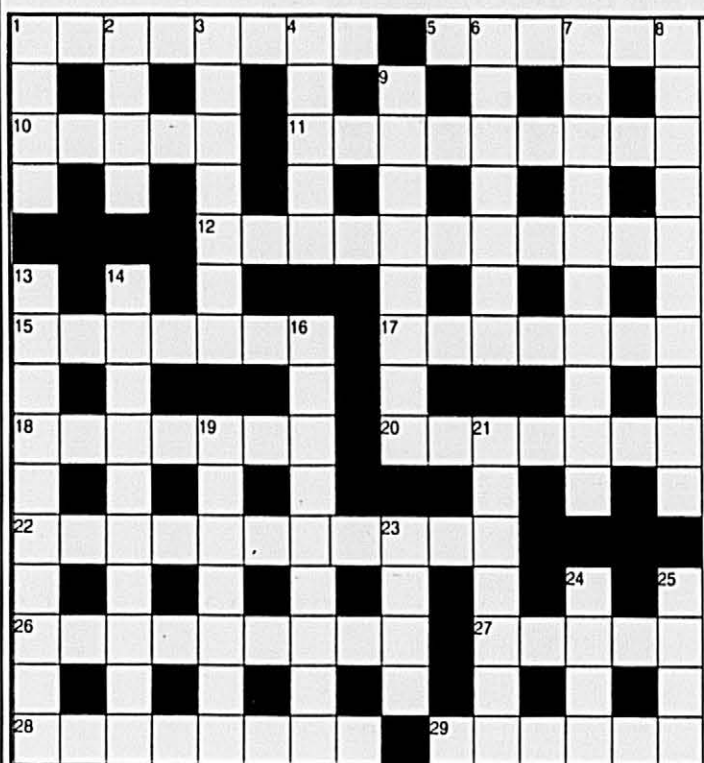
**MTG:** (a brief, gratified smile glimmers across her face) Yeah.

**MD:** Okay Trash Girl, nice talking to you. See you later.

**MTG:** See you later, man. (is heard mumbling as she walks away) whole problem with world today... people would pick up their own shit... (mumbles become unintelligible.)

## THE DAILY CRYPTIC

BY STEVE BARKER  
The McGill Daily



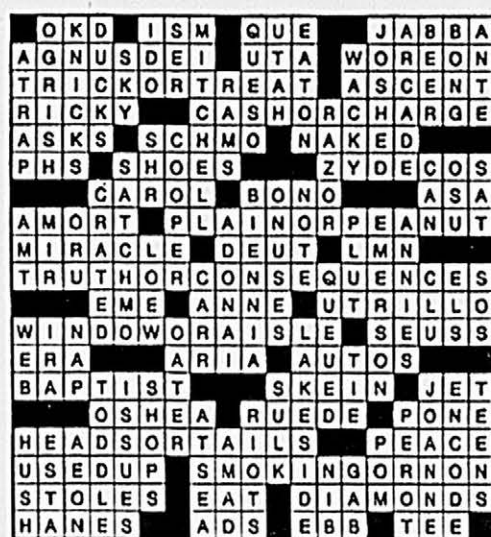
## ACROSS

- 1 Fertilizer loaded with uranium by one very powerful person (8)
- 5 Speak ambiguously with art supporter (6)
- 10 Stampbook left in a vagrant's possession (5)
- 11 Rock Hudson having smuggled in Central Americans (9)
- 12 Noblewoman sent off, covered in adhesive (11)
- 15 Eccentric almost claims composer exaggerated (7)
- 17 At times, a cowboy is caught thus by futuristic weapon (7)
- 18 Buries me on TBS broadcast (7)
- 20 TV cop show whose characters may be taken for granted (7)
- 22 Poet back there wearing false bust (6,5)
- 26 The old codger's name written backwards on paper (9)
- 27 Big cats seen at the end of big numbers (5)
- 28 Ballcarrier in right seat (6)
- 29 Rejecting sweets is emphasized (8)

## DOWN

- 1 Bird wasn't flying nonstop (4)
- 2 Where to see Big Bird outside upperclass taverns (4)
- 3 Being secluded drove me crazy (7)
- 4 One with endless chest pains (5)
- 6 Queen is playing the horses (7)
- 7 Dress and hats put up in orbit (10)
- 8 Heartless lady is in many beds in Greek comedy (10)
- 9 False delusion is without disgrace (8)
- 13 One in a compact car is not even hurt.... (10)
- 14 ....They will give evidence if street is poorly maintained (10)
- 16 Uncontrolled nudity is causing conflict (8)
- 19 Smashing newcomer eliminates Wimbledon's foremost tennis champ (7)
- 21 Sailors love sailing free (7)
- 23 Boat turned back off the island (5)
- 24 Cuts topless dances (4)
- 25 Worked, oddly unsteady (4)

## MONDAY'S SOLUTION



If we learned anything from the 20th century, it was that democracy rocks. As part of our attempt to make this life a learning experience from which we can all benefit, The McGill Daily is holding

## Elections!

Features Editor Election  
Today at 5:30!  
Online Editor Election  
November 9, 2000

You must be staff to run. If you're interested, come down to our office in ShatnerB-03, and talk to an editor. Staff is anyone who has contributed 6 articles, 6 photographs, 12 hours of production, or any combination thereof.



—from the demented mind of Steve Barker



# Content's still King, but Where?

*The future of books is up for grabs and Steven Brill wants a big piece*

BY DANIELLE HOFFMAN  
Culture Reporter

Scholars, seers and sellers have long been heralding the end of printed material and book selling as we know it. With the success of online bookstores like Amazon.com and BarnesandNoble.com and some innovative new technology – eBooks, e-texts and the like – traditional methods of book selling and printing may soon be outdated. The future of the book is in question; it is anyone's guess what people will be reading from in ten years.

The debate is set out by Jason Epstein in this week's *New York Review of Books*. Epstein writes that "it is possible...to foresee within a decade or so a vast, responsibly annotated, continuously refreshed catalog consisting of linked databases in innumerable categories and languages from which readers at their computers can download and browse whatever interests them and order it either in printed form to be collected at a nearby kiosk or...high speed laser printers and binders in their own homes, or to be read electronically on handheld readers and similar devices." Epstein's vision may or may not

be prophetic but at the very least, the ideas are enough to make traditional publishing houses tremble.

As books move into the digital medium, websites will start to play a very important role in the production and availability of author's work.

Epstein writes that "the profound human instinct by which people have always created order, distinguished value, and sustained markets amid multitudinous babble will create new filters. Distinguished and useful websites will prevail over inferior competitors and readers will find their way to desirable goods as they have always done." Opportunity lurks for whoever can see the future of publishing and can then position themselves to profit from it.

Along with these inventive possibilities are new difficulties; for one, keeping track of copyrighted material. An example of this is the recent controversy over Steven Brill's new website, Contentville.com.

This new American website, a spin-off of Brill's magazine *Brill's Content*, in which he keeps a watchful and entertaining eye on the media, purports to provide "the Web's first store run for and by people who love content—whether it's in the form of books, magazines, e-books, academic works, transcripts, archived articles, scripts or anything else that qualifies as brain food." In short, written material of any kind;

for a price, of course, ranging from about \$3.00 US for a news article to \$70.00

for a dissertation.

The controversy began when the National Library of Canada agreed to provide Canadian theses to the site. The National Graduate Council, a branch of the Canadian Federation of Students quickly protested this unauthorized sale, through which students received no money from the sale of their work.

"We fundamentally oppose the privatization and commercialisation of university research and the violation of the individual right of student authors to refuse the commercial distribution of their work," Joel Duff of the NGC insisted in a letter of protest to the National Library of Canada. Within a few weeks, Contentville.com succumbed to pressure and removed all Canadian graduate dissertations from its site, a decisive victory for the Canadian Federation of Students. American theses remain on the site, and students can request the removal of their work through a written letter.

Steven Brill managed to avoid a similar controversy through signing an agreement with the National Writers' Union, agreeing to pay writers 30 percent of fees received for their work on the site through the union's publications rights clearinghouse. And he continues to insist that the site will deal fairly with any copyright issues. In a letter to the Poynter Institute's MediaNews Website, Brill insists that "because I started out life as a

writer (and still consider myself one), I'd be plenty pissed off if I thought I owned something and was watching as someone else sold it and pocketed the money."

One of

Contentville's policies, meanwhile, has many independent booksellers singing its praises. They point to its practice of appointing various experts to review and recommend books on the site, giving the bookstores which employ these experts some much needed exposure.

Ed Morrow of Northshire Bookstore, in Maine, sees Contentville as an important way for independent booksellers to be recognized.

"[Contentville] provides prominent

recognition of the important role that independent booksellers have in our society as culture seeds, and advisors to people seeking reliable guidance."

simply for joining the site. Other writers are eager to join the e-book phenomenon; Stephen King was one of the first to write a downloadable serial novel. The popularity of these and other e-books is reminiscent of a growing trend—reading materials onscreen rather than reading printed material.

Anyone with access to the net knows the value of online research through search engines like google.com. It can be much easier to find specific material in online texts

"[Contentville] provides prominent recognition of the important role that independent booksellers have in our society as culture seeds, and advisors to people seeking reliable guidance."

recognition of the important role that independent booksellers have in our society as culture seeds, and advisors to people seeking reliable guidance."

Others are not so quick to judge Contentville as a definite benefit; Kizmin Reeves, an employee of *Partners & Crime* in New York and one of the experts for mystery/thriller on Contentville, admits that "it is too soon to tell whether the Contentville site affects our business in any way, as it's only been up since July and it isn't very well organized yet." Contentville.com also supports more mainstream endeavours, having premiered several popular books: the first book on the *Survivor* craze entitled *Survivor: The Ultimate Game* and a serial novel by James Ellroy. New members of the site are even

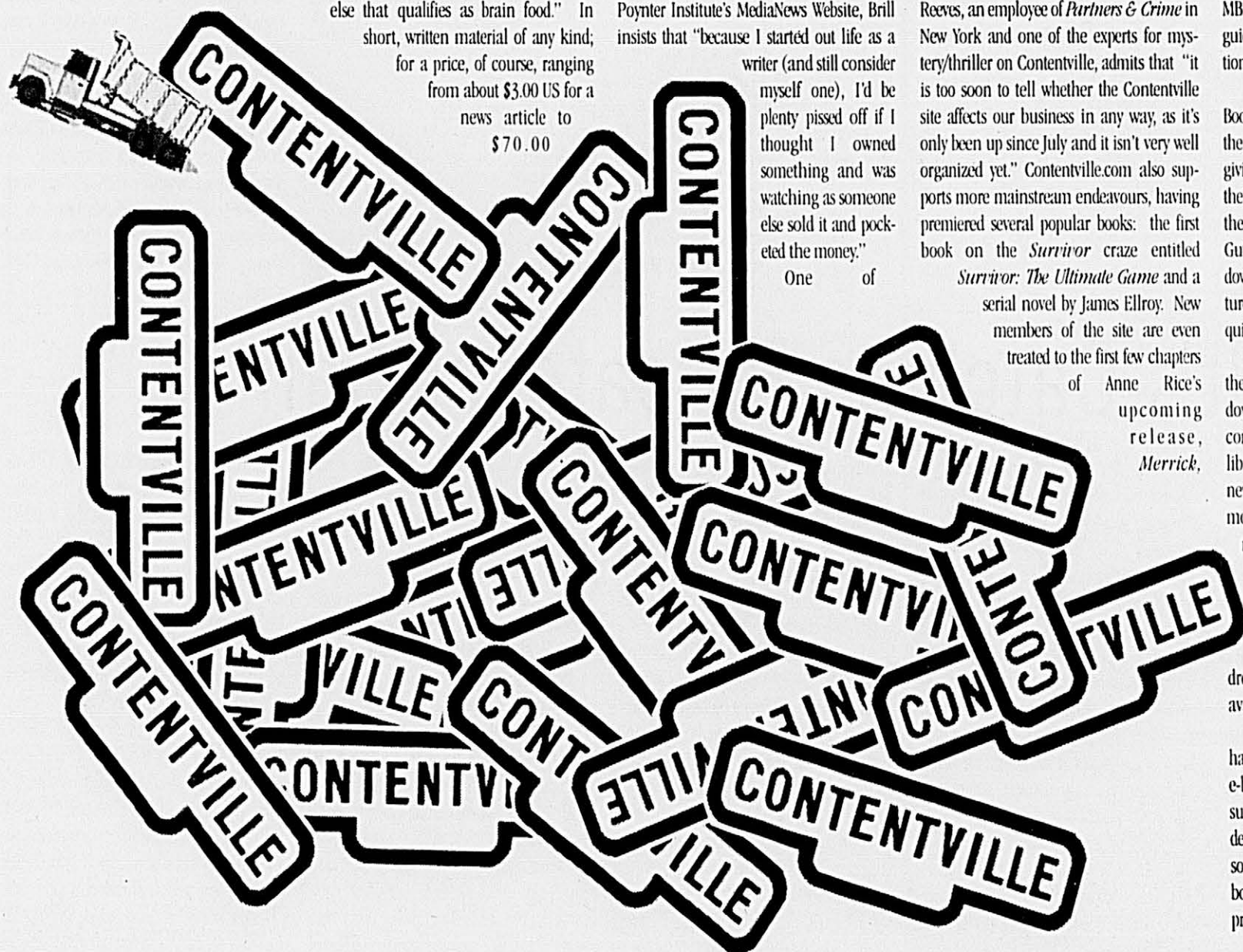
treated to the first few chapters of Anne Rice's upcoming release, *Merrick*.

than in actual printed texts. Now, you can visit virtual bookstores like Contentville or Amazon.com and download e-texts, then read them on NuvoMedia's new Rocket eBook, which is about the size of a paperback book. This convenient, portable device can hold 32 MB of downloaded text—about 90 novels or guides. BarnesandNoble.com sells this invention, along with thousands of e-texts.

E-publishers, such as Fatbrian.com or Booknise.com, have been appearing all over the net providing a variety of e-texts as well as giving unpublished authors a new way to get their work recognized. Even more exciting is the idea of an e-library. Visit Project Gutenberg ([www.gutenberg.net](http://www.gutenberg.net)) and you can download many famous novels and literature, all for free, in plain text with a very quick downloading time.

Of course, there are still advantages to the printed book. What is available for download on the Internet is fairly limited compared to actual bookstores and libraries; on many of the e-publisher sites, new and self-published authors are far more common than recent, well-known novels and best-sellers. And while Amazon.com may provide several e-texts, including Chekov or Kipling for a mere \$3.50 US, they offer a thousand of them compared to the hundreds of thousands of printed materials available.

Bookstores and libraries probably don't have too much to fear from the e-publishers, e-books, and e-text providers yet. But don't be surprised if, in a few decades or so, McGill students are logging onto Contentville.com, or some other site, and downloading their textbooks rather than buying them, and the printed book is a thing of the past.





# Pigeon-hole, Spread Your Wings!

*CHOM L'Esprit-winning McGill students get ready to enter the real world*

BY J. KELLY NESTRUCK  
The McGill Daily

Pigeon-hole doesn't like to be, well, pigeonholed into any one genre of music. When pressed, Natasha Szuber, one of the two frontwomen of the band, will describe their unique sound as "Pop-Funk-Rock Folk" or "Rock-Cookie-Dough-Folk Funk." Isabelle Fahmy, the other, describes it as more of a musical treat at the local ice cream parlour. "Folk is the cone, funk is the ice cream and jazz is the sprinkles on top," she says. Bassist Adam Blinick and drummer Wade Manricks shake their heads when trying to pin down exactly what their sound is all about.

This eclectic sound has gained a lot of attention for Pigeon-hole lately. Part of the increased interest has come from their winning of CHOM 97.7 FM's L'Esprit 2000 Music Showcase this summer, which officially dubbed them "Montreal's best new band" and is launching its CD compilation of finalists and semi-finalists today. Since their victory, the students-cum-musicians' cover of Twisted Sister's "We're Not Going to Take It," from the band's new album *Versus Gravity*, has hit the Hot 8 at 8 and the gigs keep coming.

"The doors it opened, with the speed with which it did so, is really remarkable," says Blinick. "We're being played three times a day, every day [on CHOM]." This is on top of an already impressive resumé which includes opening for Tracy Chapman, 54-40, Jim Cuddy and Vede Hille and spots in the Edgefest and NXNE festivals.

But winning the L'Esprit contest has been a double-edged sword for the band. "There's always the concern that you'll be labelled as a contest band," Szuber worries. "You don't want to go down in the history books as the old CHOM 2000 winners, and what did they make of

themselves? You have to make sure that you keep on your toes after that and not just get taken away [by it]." Indeed, few of the previous winners of the contest have gone on to fulfill their promise.

Szuber and Fahmy form the Ying and Yang at the centre of the band. The two, though imbued with entirely different personalities, have been friends and have played together since high school, through CEGEP at Marianopolis, and into McGill, where they are finishing their degrees. On the one hand you have the quiet, unassuming, raven-haired Fahmy who sings sweetly into the microphone, swaying to the music. On the other you have the energetic, bespectacled, dirty-blonde Szuber whose funky energy is always evident and up front as she sings and strums her guitar energetically.

Blinick, who was a fan of the band prior to joining it, describes the interaction between the two well. "The way I saw it was Isabelle came off more as the delegate, more at ease and serene, and Natasha was more wholly physically involved in the show. I think that's what I liked about watching them: one was more in the feel of it and the other was showing the feel of it."

When Blinick first heard the duo play as a McGill frosh leader two years ago, he offered his services as bassist. It took Pigeon-hole six months to take up his offer, but since then Blinick's cool stage presence and his anecdotal wit has enriched the live shows.

Wade Manricks was the last one to hop on board. He once played in a rival group in a battle of the bands, but was eager to join when the previous drummer, Scott Russell - Montreal's bizarre and wonderful "Bucketboy" - left Pigeon-hole. His goofy warmth helps him act as an anchor for the group; he keeps the rhythm moving on- and off-stage.

The climate for female-centred bands has changed radically over the past decade,



*Pigeon-hole's Isabelle, Wade, Natasha, and Adam (L to R) listen as "Owner of a Lonely Heart" plays at a café on Parc*

from the huge Lilith-Fair-led surge in popularity to the subsequent backlash. Such larger trends have generally left Pigeon-hole unscathed. Certainly the climate has changed since their first appearance at the West Island hang-out *Chyle's*, where they were told by the proprietor, "I like that. Two girls singing. Guitar. I think that's sexy."

Fahmy points to local bands The Cartel and The Kingpins, who are now led by women to illustrate the shift. "Not only have more female bands emerged, but it used to be more of an issue for us," adds Szuber. "I think that we were there like two little sore thumbs amongst the boys. After a while, it became more about the music than anything else."

As the male members of the band, Blinick and Manricks don't see any stigma attached to being in a female-fronted band. "I think before I'd even joined Pigeon-hole, they had forged as serious songwriters and musicians on the scene," says Blinick. "They had crossed the boundaries of being what would be considered a chick band. The respect I get musically from playing

with Pigeon-hole is the most respect I've gotten from playing with any band I've ever played with."

Both veterans of all-male bands, Blinick and Manricks definitely notice a different dynamic, however. Instead of being a loosely connected group, they find Pigeon-hole has more of a family feel to it. "We're more dependent on each other," Manricks remarks.

Aside from trying to find time for their studies - Fahmy, Szuber and Blinick are all McGill students, and Manricks is at Concordia - the most pressing concern for Pigeon-hole right now is guitarist Szuber's left index finger. While cutting crabmeat for her cousin's wedding shower last month, she sliced into it and had to have it glued back together. It has been a couple of weeks now, and the finger is on the road to recovery. "It is still kind of stiff and the playing is kinda rusty, but it'll come in time," she says. "I'm not too worried."

Next spring, once Fahmy and Blinick's degrees are finished, Szuber and Manricks are going to put theirs on hold. Then, the

band plans to make a go of it full-time. Says Blinick, "We all want to make a commitment to music as our primary source of living." The band will go on tour and perhaps be Montreal's next big export to the Canadian and North American music scene, spurred by a tentative release on the Aquarius label this spring.

But such notions of grandeur are unimportant to the band. Isabelle sums up the band's philosophy as one where the tunes come first. "Natasha and I have been together for 10 years now playing music. And with Adam and Wade it's just been such a fruitful experience. I don't care if we don't make it famous. I think we're going to be doing this for a very long time. For us, it's about playing music."

*Pigeonhole plays at HMV today at 1:00pm to launch the CHOM FM L'Esprit 2000 album, featuring songs from the finalists and semi-finalists of this year's competition. They are playing at Le Swimming on Thursday, November 16th along with fellow McGill band Bear Left.*

## It's Catch as Ratcatcher Can

BY SARAH LAZAROVIC  
Culture Reporter

*Ratcatcher* is the kind of film that lingers. Long after the you've abandoned your relatively plush seat in a certain underground theatre, Lynne Ramsay's debut feature film will flutter in and out of your consciousness like a lilting melody.

*Ratcatcher* is a gloomy glimpse into the life of James Gillespie, an introspective 12-year-old who lives with his family in an impoverished Glasgow government housing settlement. James dreams of the family's relocation to a new house, removed from the rat-infested, refuse-strewn streets where he spends his days.

Ramsay's story opens not with James, but with Ryan Quinn, a cute kid who meets an unfortunate end while playing with

James in the polluted canal that will become a through-line for the story. Though accidental, Ryan's death only increases James' melancholy bent. He adds the guilt of Ryan's death to a pot of troubles that is precariously near boiling over.

It is at the canal that James meets Margaret-Anne, a fourteen-year-old with an equally brimming pot of troubles. James and Margaret-Anne forge a tender friendship even after James aids a gang of older boys in carrying out an afternoon visit to Margaret-Anne's apartment where they take turns with her.

James' father is an oafish drinker, a lout who verbally abuses him. But, even after a long day's work, James' mother returns home to pick lice from his head and lavish loving caresses upon him. When Dad unintentionally becomes a hero, he leaves a

family party honouring him to go drink with his mates. At home, Mom coerces James and his two sisters into dancing with her. In this scene Ramsay deftly pulls the heartstrings, showing us the Gillespie family in an unguarded moment without resorting to over-the-top sentimentality.

Despite the bleakness of James' life, *Ratcatcher* is not a film without levity. James' stuttering friend Kenny is lovable and pitiable. He lets the older boys convince him into sending his pet mouse on a surreal journey. It is rather a poignant moment too, as we see the boys craning their heads towards the heavens, realizing that Kenny's mouse may be the only one to escape this rat-infested place.

James finds comfort in the new housing project that he discovers when he takes an indiscriminately chosen bus to its termi-

nus. He finds a vast, magical field, which becomes his dream. It is the direct opposite of the dreary, murky, stagnant canal. The field is James' hope, and it gives the film a feeling of imminent salvation.

Ramsay elicits stellar performances from a cast of relative newcomers. As James, William Eadie is rough and unaffected. With a pouty face, and ears poking startlingly outwards, he is a perfect protagonist. His little sister, played by Lynne Ramsay Jr. (the director's niece) is equally unaffected and engaging. Mom and Dad (Mandy Matthews and Tommy Flanagan) are stage-schooled actors, and very adept in their roles.

Ramsay's direction is sharp but slow. She holds shots for long period of time, allowing the viewer to examine every inch of the frame. She says this attention to detail and composition comes from initial train-

ing as a photographer. Regardless, it works.

Ramsay has worked with the same team since graduating from the National Film and Television School in 1995. This may be why the film has such a unified feel about it. Director of Photography Alwin Kuchler evokes perfectly the colours of James' life. Often, his shots are reminiscent of Magritte paintings: a surreal subject in front of a dreamy blue sky.

With music by the very credible Rachel Portman, the collaboration is complete. Her hovering melodies weave us into the intricate life of James Gillespie. Together, the elements combine to make for a evocative and thoughtful picture that will stick with you long after the popcorn's gone stale.

*Ratcatcher is currently playing at Cinéma de Parc. English subtitles, due to those weird Glasgow accents.*



# Subtitled & Seduced

*Festival showcases recent French language films*

BY PAUL REEVE  
The McGill Daily

Tell someone you're headed to see a French film, and you might well catch a glimmer in their eye signifying one of two things: a glassy incomprehension, the kind that a lifetime of Hollywoodism can install permanently in the North American moviegoer's eye; or a smoky, sexual envy, reflecting a little of the richly deserved reputation of French film for both sensuality and obscurity.

If you're part of the first group, I urge you to act now and correct the error of your ways. If you're in the second, you may stand to have your stereotypes shaken up little.

Both will get their chance in the coming

in 1962. He returns thirty years later to Algeria, having become a successful journalist in France, to help the woman he was torn from on his original departure, whose daughter has aroused the anger of Islamic authorities by removing her veil in public. The film, which "exposes the violence, corruption and fanaticism" of Algeria, marks the first time a French filmmaker has shot on location there since the war of independence. Arcady will be at the Museum for the film's showing this evening.

Also playing is the first film of controversial French author and filmmaker Catherine Breillat, *A Real Young Lady* (*Une Vraie Jeune Fille*), the story of a 14-year-old girl's sexual awakening. Based on a novel by Breillat, who published her first at the age of

(*Scènes de Crimes*), Christian Vincent's cinema vérité drama *Save Me* (*Sauve-moi*), Philippe Muyl's Mad Cow disease comedy *A Cow and the Boy* (*La Vache et le Président*), Frederic Fonteyne's intimate drama *Une Liaison Pornographique*, Tonie Marshall's comedy-drama *Venus Beauty Institute* (*Vénus Beauté (Institut)*), and Agnes Jaoui's *The Taste of Others*, among others.

The Cinémania French Film Festival with English subtitles runs from today, Thursday, November 2, to Sunday, November 12, in the Maxwell-Cummings auditorium at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. For more info, contact the festival at 878-2882, or [info@cinemaniafilm-festival.com](mailto:info@cinemaniafilm-festival.com).



ten days. Today marks the opening of the Cinémania "French Film Festival with English Subtitles," now in its sixth year. It runs from today to Sunday, November 12, in the Maxwell-Cummings auditorium at the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts. The festival is intended "to firmly establish the presence of French language films and introduce French cinema to new generations of audiences."

This year, all but one of the festival's offerings are from France, though several also involve Belgian or Swiss collaborators. Among these are the latest from *Irma Vep* director Olivier Assayas and from French-Algerian filmmaker Alexandre Arcady.

The last two years have seen the addition to the festival of the Mel Hoppenheim Prix du Public, an award for best film in the festival as chosen by festival audiences. Last year's winner was Patrice Leconte's *The Girl on the Bridge* (*Le Fille sur le pont*).

*Macbroom*, Québecois filmmaker Denis Villeneuve's second full-length film, is the sole Quebec film in the festival. In this film, "a fish spawned in waters from the beginnings of the Earth" tells the story of a beautiful and successful young woman named Bibiane whose life, interrupted by a series of disasters, quickly descends into chaos. It was named Best Canadian Film at the 2000 Montreal World Film Festival.

The main character of Alexandre Arcady's *Return to Algiers* (*Là-bas, mon pays*), the festival's opening film, is an Algerian who, like the director himself, was forced to leave his home country at the age of 17 during the Algerian war of independence



Top: Buddies bang out in *la Vache et le Président*

Below: The lovers of *Une Liaison Pornographique* discuss Taster's Choice.

19, it was filmed 25 years ago, but never released because of its shockingly explicit depictions of the experiences of a young adolescent girl seeking to lose her virginity.

Famous Frenchman Olivier Assayas returns with *Sentimental Destiny* (*Les Destinées Sentimentales*), a period piece about an affair between a Protestant minister and a 20-year old beauty, also in its North American premiere at the festival.

Other films in a North American or world premiere at the festival include Fredric Schoendoerffer's police thriller *Crime Scenes*

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## Melting My Icicle on the Table d'Hôte



## POST-HIPPO

By JOHN LESERE  
The McGill Daily

Obviously the first step to any discussion of blow jobs involves a frank discussion of genitalia, both male and female. To understand the penis and vagina, to truly get "dick" and "pussy" and know what it means to become intimately involved with each on the same level as one's tooth brush, one needs to understand two basic and fundamental premises. The first is that these areas are delicate and sensitive. The second is that they require careful hygienic attention. To illustrate these two ideas, I will present a brief and succinct example of what can happen when things go awry.

The first is a personal account of the dangers of certain substances. Having been ignorant for some time as to the powerful constitution of, and traditional uses of Tiger Balm, I was cajoled by a devious friend into applying a liberal amount of this substance to my genital area. Although

the effects were not long-lasting, the occasion of trying to drive a car as I wondered whether or not my penis was actually melting has left me with an important benchmark as to the sensitivity level of the area.

As to the issue of hygiene, just take a shower, or be honest with your partner. Do not, as one of my readers related this past week, invite disaster by failing to inform a partner of a recent illness or uncomfortable situation (use your imagination). The most important thing to remember is that, in many ways, oral sex is more intimate and physically demanding than intercourse. Someone has their nose and tongue between your legs, and chances are, things will go a whole lot better if both of you acknowledge this and take proactive steps to make things as tasty and tolerable as possible.

However, the real issue of oral sex is something else entirely. Certainly blow jobs play second fiddle to the big wham-bam in many cases. In defense of oral sex, as I mentioned above, it can often be more intimate and bonding than intercourse itself. Part of achieving a comfortable position "down there" is knowing that person well enough that you trust their hygienic practices and they trust your respect for sensitivity. In at least some sense, oral sex, check that, good

oral sex, requires a relationship outside of bed, be it monogamous or otherwise.

In intercourse, a couple makes dinner together, shaping their "sexual table d'hôte" out of a combined tension between their sexual appetites. Fetishes will compete for attention and so will physical preferences. With oral sex, you're being served your own plate. The key then, is finding a chef who serves you what you like, but more importantly, and I'll depart from the metaphor now, making sure that person knows your tastes.

There are simple means to this end. Talk before or after your encounters with your partner, or if you're weird like me, talk about things during. My last girlfriend was a veritable rookie, and "on-the-blow-job" training not only got me what I wanted as far as great orgasms went, but by choosing words carefully I was able to make her feel more comfortable. When it came to be my turn to dish, she was able to freely give me directions to her hot spots. Oral sex doesn't have to be a painful trial and error guessing game. You already know what you want, (that was last week's lesson).

This, of course, does not mean there is never room for creative involvement in this area. In fact, quite the opposite is true. Armed with the basic knowledge of the

pleasurable instincts and areas of your partner, you are free to experiment within those boundaries.

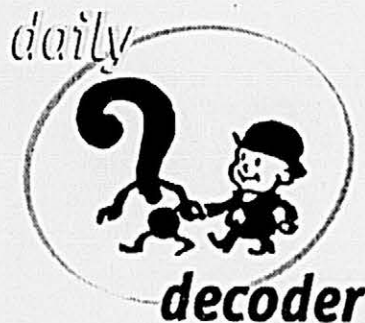
For example, upon realizing that my last girlfriend seemed to enjoy the "challenge" of oral sex, I would offer one up on occasion. One such challenge was to remain standing as I performed oral sex on her, even while all she wanted to do at many points was to collapse spread eagle on the floor. The added excitement of trying to stand through intense pleasure, the variety of position which is not so often associated with oral sex, and my willingness to just "be on my knees" all combined to offer her a unique oral sex experience even though I still focused on all of her hot spots. Notably, the kind of comfort and knowledge necessary to make this kind of episode work is something, which as mentioned earlier, requires the kind of personal knowledge that is acquired over time.

Part of what makes breaking a monogamous relationship so hard is the obsolescence of this information you have worked

so lovingly to compile. Having diligently created a working picture of a single person's physical schematic can make oral sex with others, or worse yet, sex in general, seem a daunting and ultimately meaningless task, where the act loses all of its structure so suddenly. Oral sex can become one of the most physical manifestations of "sex-cliché." No where is it more obvious that you know everything/nothing about a person than when you have your face between their legs.

Well, oral sex since hasn't been much fun lately. I've got it stuck in my head, I guess, that we need to do *that* with someone we're going to see more than once. Nostalgia runs amok on your heart when you live in past encounters, but we'll continue to explore memorable sexual moments when we discuss music next week!!!

Send me your favourite shagging tunes or anything else sex-related to: [laid@botmail.com](mailto:laid@botmail.com)



By IAN MCKELLAR  
The McGill Daily

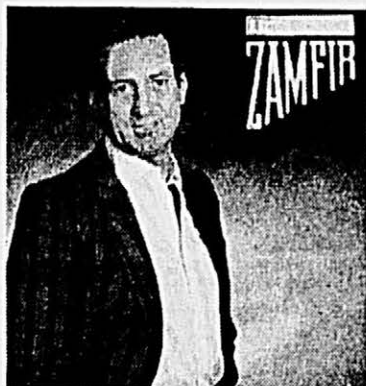
## Can I marry my professor?

In short, yes. If you can live with the overwhelming moral and ethical problems, the mockery from your peers, and the general lifestyle of a pariah, then you are encouraged to tie the knot with your prof. This is, apparently, fairly common, according to Carol Cumming Speirs, Ombudsperson for Students. She stresses the many risks of student/professor lovin'. If you are currently taking a course from the professor in question, or are even in the same department, things become "a bit problematic. It's extremely unwise, and it's ethically considered a no-no for pros to be in a relationship with students they are currently teaching." The professor leaves himself, or herself, open to accusations of sexual harassment, given the "great power differential in the roles." While there is no clear injunction prohibiting student-pro-

fessor marriage, "both [parties] run risks," says Speirs. In the mind of this writer, furthermore, there is another important issue to be considered. In general, professors are extremely old, while, in general, students are extremely young, and anyone who followed the debacle concerning Anna Nicole Smith and that 300-year-old man can understand the basic difficulties inherent in a large age gap. That said, the choice is yours.

## I hate Zamfir, the Pan flutist!

Now, that's not even a question. Besides, Zamfir is not all bad. Possibly the world's only renowned Pan flutist, Gheorghe Zamfir first developed his skills in his native Romania in the 1950's during a severe accordion-teacher crisis, when he made the big leap to the Pan flute. "The first time I played the instrument I became dizzy," quoth he, whether because of the instrument's difficulty or its sweet dulcet tones only he knows for sure. Zamfir joined the Bucharest Conservatory, touring Bulgaria, the USSR, and Mongolia. In the mid-1980's, he began appearing in strange late-night television commercials; as he tooted out "Memory" on his curious instrument, the announcer proclaimed Zamfir "master of the Pan flute," his music "hauntingly beautiful." Since his records were available exclusively via this special television offer, he soon became known as one of the "reigning royalty of mail-order superstars." He has



sold more than twenty million records, has earned 33 platinum discs, and composed the soundtracks for The Karate Kid and The Karate Kid II. He has appeared on Late Night with David Letterman, and Johnny Carson has lauded his "ardent flautistry." These days, Zamfir spends his time teaching others the ancient art of Pan flautistry.

Got a steamy question for the Decoder? Send 'em on in to [decoder@mcgilldaily.com](mailto:decoder@mcgilldaily.com).

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# All about the Mount

## Mount Royal's stories and secrets revealed

BY ELANYA GOLUBEVA  
Mind & Body Reporter

When we are buried deep in midterms and piles of essays, it is unusual for us McGill students to venture beyond the bomb shelter known as McLennan library, our apartments, or the closest dep. It is an unfortunate state of affairs, because if only we had the time, we might take the opportunity to enjoy the myriad of interesting and beautiful locales that lie in our own backyard. The city that we call home for our short time at university has a history that goes back hundreds of years, long before any European set foot upon the North American continent. And if this island on the St. Lawrence were visited back when Hochelaga was the only settlement here, one would realize that certain elements of Montreal's character are everlasting.

### FOR THE MIND

Without a doubt, a characteristic element is Montreal's severe winters and another is the city's reputation as a center of haute couture. At the peak of the fur trade, Montreal served as an integral post in the route to Europe from Canada's interior West. Lastly, the 735-foot high mass of traprock that rises well above the surrounding area has been recognized as a distinguishing feature of the island by all inhabitants over its history. The Iroquois, followed by the Europeans, established their settlements at the mountain's base and climbed atop it to survey the territory in its vicinity.

Nowadays, Montrealers flock to the mountain in their leisure time to escape the urban grind on gorgeous tree-lined paths and are treated to unparalleled views of their sprawling metropolis. But the parkland incarnation of Mount Royal as we know it is not the same Mount Royal of a century ago. By the last half of the 19th century, most of the mountain's trees had been cut down to keep Montreal's residents warm in the winter and help meet Britain's growing demand for Canadian lumber. City officials were upset by the deforestation, considering it an ugly scar on what had once been the island's most beautiful area. Hence, the idea of creating a natural preserve atop the mountain was proposed.

When the decision was made, Montreal's planners knew exactly whom to look toward: Frederick Law Olmsted, the eminent landscape architect of the time and already adept at designing rural havens in urban settings. It was the 1870s, and he was already in the midst of designing New York's Central Park. Upon its completion, Olmsted cautiously agreed to take on the Mount Royal challenge. Although Olmsted was at first reluctant, he accepted the Mount Royal project after sizing up the great opportunity that it presented. After all, the site of his artistic creation was to be the Island of Montreal's physical and historic heart. Olmsted devoted himself to the design and, as he himself put it, "the matter gave [him] a great deal of labor, and was a source of constant and increasing anxiety for nearly three years." Sadly, the manuscript Olmsted produced after his painstaking work was

met with a cold reception. With a complete change in the managing board of the Mount Royal property and the onset of an economic depression, Olmsted presented his plans under circumstances greatly different from his original commission a few years earlier. Twelve years after he had shown the city planners his original manuscript, his design concept had only been partially implemented after vast modifications.

So what became of Olmsted's Mount Royal? The vegetation that he had selected to emphasize its mountainous topography and the lookout tower that he hoped would be a major attraction never came to fruition. As well, he had envisioned a lush pasture and a lake at the mountain's summit, but the city council forced him to design a water reservoir instead. Ironically, that reservoir was never built. Instead, a kidney-shaped pond called Beaver Lake was added in 1930, resembling Olmsted's original concept. As for the lookout tower, the 98-foot high illuminated cross that towers over Montreal takes its place today. Erected in 1924, the gaudy landmark can be seen all over the island. Interestingly, part of the inspiration for the construction of the cross was the legend of Paul de Maisonneuve, one of the city's founders. He is reputed to have carried a cross to the top of Mount Royal on January 6, 1643, following through on a promise he had made to weary settlers if the young colony survived a terrible flood. And so, perhaps not quite as Olmsted had wanted it, Mount Royal is a treasured oasis of refuge in the middle of a hectic metropolis.

The mountain's beauty impresses the most casual visitors, even if they are unaware of its significant position in Canadian history. The walk along its paths meanders from lively, crowded areas to quiet, secluded spots. The lookout near the Grand Chalet hall gives a magnificent vista of the city and the St. Lawrence, and a little further away, there is a view of the Mount Royal cemetery and the lush greenery around it. From there, another path leads to the Cross, and yet another brings the adventurous hiker up to the highest point of the island. What's more, visitors can reveal their funky sides every Sunday (weather permitting) at the foot of the Mountain by the George-Etienne Cartier monument. There, hundreds of tam-tam lovers gather to spend the day hammering away at their bongos at one of Canada's largest drumming jams, and crowds gather to listen, dance and smoke pot.

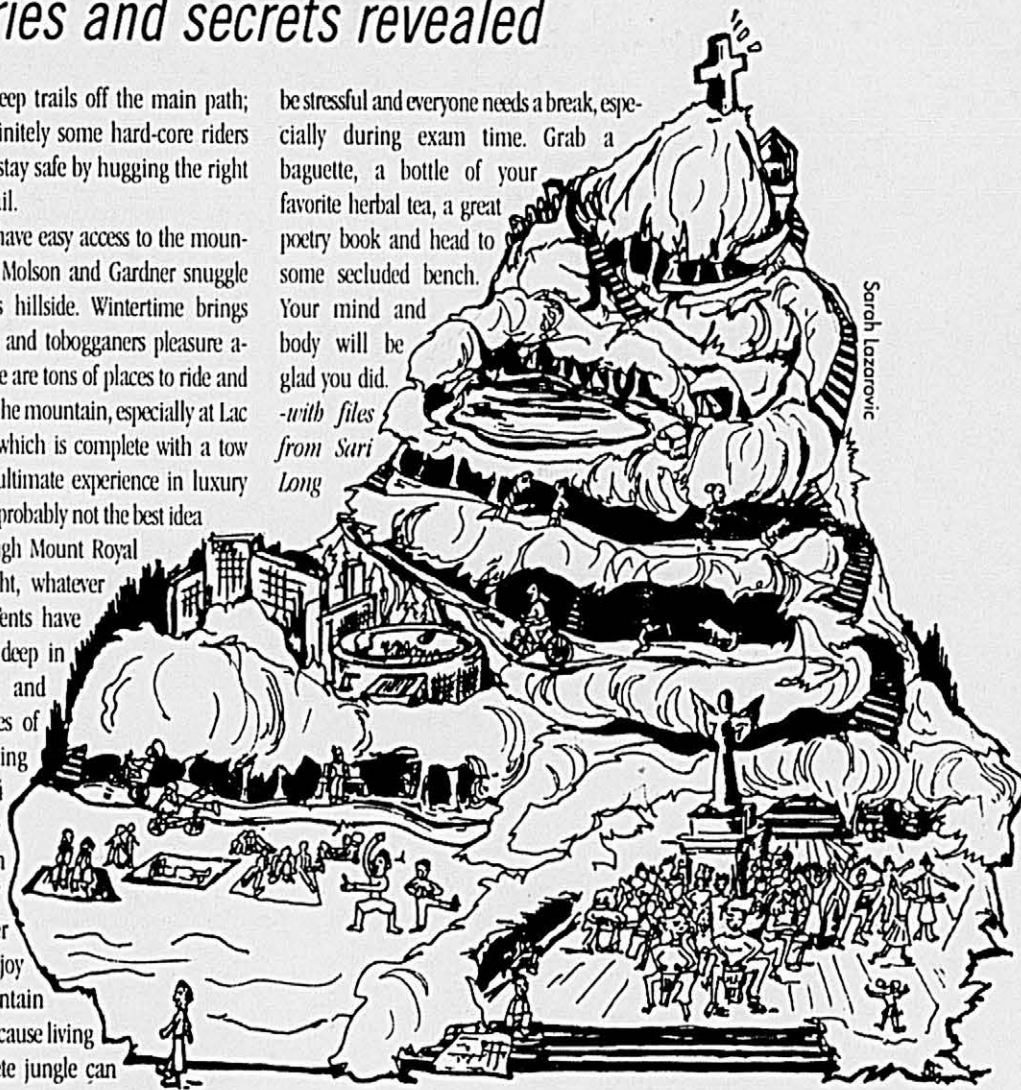
### FOR THE BODY

Now that you know the history of Mount Royal, you can take advantage of its serenity and wilderness-like beauty to further your dormant athletic intentions. For reference and as a goal in your own running program, it takes the McGill Martlet cross country team about 50 minutes to run from the gym up around the cross and back, which turns out to be about 11 K. In the fall, you can come on out to the McGill Open and race all those speedsters around the challenging and hilly course. Mountain bikers love the mountain for its

windy and steep trails off the main path; there are definitely some hard-core riders out there, so stay safe by hugging the right side of the trail.

Rez kids have easy access to the mountain, as both Molson and Gardner snuggle right into its hillside. Wintertime brings snowboarders and tobogganers pleasure aplenty, as there are tons of places to ride and glide all over the mountain, especially at Lac aux Castors, which is complete with a tow rope for the ultimate experience in luxury sledding. It is probably not the best idea to walk through Mount Royal alone at night, whatever the season. Tents have been spotted deep in the woods and there are tales of joggers getting arrested at 4 am because of certain "park hours" laws. Other than that, enjoy all the mountain has to offer because living in the concrete jungle can

be stressful and everyone needs a break, especially during exam time. Grab a baguette, a bottle of your favorite herbal tea, a great poetry book and head to some secluded bench. Your mind and body will be glad you did. -with files from Sari Long



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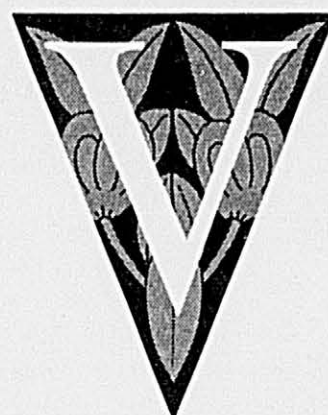
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